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WILLIAM C. WEST
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at Chapel Hill

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This informative book illuminates daily public life in the capital city Rome (I c. BC - III c. AD). Robinson investigates "what ought to be done, and what [legal] arrangements were made and by whom so that these things should be done, to allow a population of perhaps a million . . . to live together." Yet this is no dry reference book: Robinson inquires into all earthly matters affecting Rome's inhabitants. Thus those of us struck with such questions as "What did they DO with the innumerable corpses of gladiators and wild beasts?" or "Who cleaned Rome's streets, and of what?" now have a place to turn. Inspired by modern urban concerns, Robinson examines the physical city of Rome; overall planning; building controls; public buildings and public works; streets and thoroughfares; the Tiber; water and fire; public health; control of services; feeding the city; shows and spectacles; the forces of law and order; and public order. She convincingly concludes that the policies of Roman local government aimed at maintaining social stability, and we finish the book with renewed awe for the thorough Roman practicality promoting this stability and Rome's other achievements.

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